



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024



patapsco.org



Patapsco Valley Heritage Area



@patapscovalleyheritage



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this third year as president, I want to acknowledge the work of our board members who provide governance and vitality to PHG through their work as a full board, executive committee, theme committees (Heritage, Environment, Recreation, Arts and Culture), administrative committees, and volunteer support to our programs and events. The commitment, special expertise, and energy of each board member is an incredible strength of PHG. I also want to thank our valued staff member, Rachel Pierson, who is moving on from PHG to a career in youth education, and welcome Hannah Emmons, who will replace Rachel as our full-time community programs coordinator.

My personal memories of the past year include the following special moments in our quest to preserve, protect, interpret, and restore the environment, history, and culture of the Patapsco River Valley:

- **Agroforestry-** The practice of growing trees and shrubs that provide agricultural products, such as fruits, nuts and berries, has the potential to transform farms, parks, and residences into areas that produce economic benefit while promoting biodiversity. I joined PHG staff on a visit to Centreville, MD where Maryland DNR Forestry described their program and demonstrated a pilot project. Later, we involved the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) in one of our agroforestry plantings in Patapsco Valley State Park.
- **Choose Clean Water Conference-** At this regional gathering of scientists, managers, advocates, and students for clean water, PHG staff and I presented a session on vernal pools and led a field exercise in vernal pools and water quality monitoring.
- **Nike Missile Site-** After a year of nurturing, the Heritage Committee led by Tom Somers sponsored the first public event at the Nike Missile Site BA-79 in Granite, MD. I, along with 200 others, learned the history of and saw the restored facilities of this part of the first missile defense system in the U.S.
- **Green Community Leadership Award-** Lastly, I was proud to attend, with PHG Executive Director Aaron Shapiro and Secretary Ken Boone, the presentation of our Green Community Leadership Award by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and Howard Community College President Dr. Daria Willis.

This annual report highlights these and many other accomplishments of the past year and sets the stage for our continued future success. Please take time to read the report and find events and programs to enjoy and support as a volunteer or donor.

Mark Southerland
President
Patapsco Heritage Greenway

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Mandy DeLeo, Water Quality Program Coordinator
Gaelyn Mitchell, Marketing Coordinator
Rachel Pierson, Community Programs Coordinator
Hannah Emmons, Chesapeake Conservation
and Climate Corps Member
Apoorva Ajith, Water Quality Monitoring Intern

*deceased

OUR MISSION

As the non-profit managing organization for the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area, Patapsco Heritage Greenway is dedicated to preserving, protecting, interpreting, and restoring the environment, history, and culture of Maryland's most dramatic river valley for all.

PHG PARTNERS

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Baltimore County Arts Guild
Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences
Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks
Baltimore County Green Alliance
Baltimore County Office of Tourism and Cultural Arts
Baltimore County Public Schools
Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum
Boy Scouts of America (Howard and Baltimore County)
Catonsville Arts and Entertainment District
Catonsville Chamber of Commerce
Catonsville Middle School
Catonsville Rails to Trails
Catonsville Recreation and Park Council
Catonsville Restaurant Association
Catonsville Tree Canopy Project
Charlestowne Senior Living Community
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative/RiverTrends
Choose Clean Water Coalition
Church Lane Elementary and Technology School
Community College of Baltimore County
Community Ecology Institute
Conveyor Handling Company, Inc.
Defensores de la Cuenca (La Academia Program)
Diggs-Johnson Museum
EC250, Inc.
Edmondson Heights Elementary School
Elkridge Heritage Society
Elkridge Rotary Foundation
Ellicott City Historic District Partnership
Ellicott City Sunrise Rotary Club
Energetics, Inc.
Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park
Friends of Whipps Cemetery and Memorial Gardens
Gilbane Building Company
Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
Grace Improvement Organization of Grace AME Church
Granite Historical Society
Great Kids Farm
Greater Arbutus Business Association
Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition
Greater Patapsco Community Association
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Higher Achievement Baltimore
Historic Ellicott City, Inc.
Historical Society of Baltimore County
Howard Community College
Howard County Arts Council
Howard County Center for African American Culture
Howard County Chamber of Commerce
Howard County Conservancy
Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks
Howard County Historical Society
Howard County History Day
Howard County Poetry and Literary Society
Howard County Public School System
Howard County Tourism and Promotion (Visit Howard County)
Howard County Truth, Lynching and Reconciliation, Inc.
Howard Ecoworks
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Izaak Walton League of America (Save Our Streams & Salt Watch)
Lakeland STEAM Center
Lansdowne Middle School
Latino Conservation Week Partnership (Baltimore Area)
Lurman Woodland Theatre
Manor Hill Tavern
Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership
Maryland Civil Air Patrol, Nike Missile Site BA-79
Maryland Ornithological Society- Baltimore Bird Club
Maryland State Parks
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE)
Music City Maryland Association
Natural History Society of Maryland
Nature Forward
Oella Historical Society
Patapsco Valley State Park
Patterson Park Audubon
Preservation Maryland
Restoring Bull Branch
Robinson Nature Center
Rotary Club of Catonsville
Rotary Clubs of Howard County
Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum
Spring Grove Arboretum
T. Rowe Price
Under Armour
University of Maryland Baltimore County (Choice Program)
UMBC Center for Global Engagement (YALI Program)
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Integration and Application Network
University of Maryland School of Public Health
Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group
Watershed Charter School

PHG'S FOUR FOCUS AREAS



HERITAGE



ENVIRONMENT



ARTS & CULTURE



RECREATION

MHAA GRANT FUNDS

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) awarded matching grants totaling **\$428,300 for Patapsco Valley Heritage Area (PVHA) non-profits**. These FY25 funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that draw visitors and expand economic development and tourism-related job creation throughout Maryland.

Funded projects in the PVHA include:

Ellicott City Historic District Partnership Historic Ellicott City Heritage Tourism Support	\$50,000
Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. Historic Post Office Interior Renovation Project	\$100,000
Oella Historical Society, Inc. Historic Oella Cemetery Restoration and Improvement	\$35,800
Preservation Maryland Ellicott City Jail Rehabilitation	\$100,000



ELLICOTT CITY PARTNERSHIP



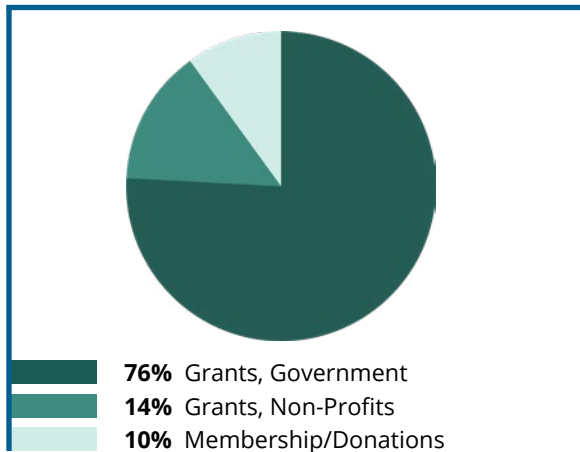
PRESERVATION MARYLAND

In addition, Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) received a management grant for \$100,000, a block grant for \$25,000, and a marketing grant for \$17,500. PHG's management grant supports organizational operations and staffing. The marketing grant will help promote and highlight heritage tourism opportunities for visitors to the PVHA. All funds from the block grant will be used to support mini-grants to PVHA partners and stakeholders.

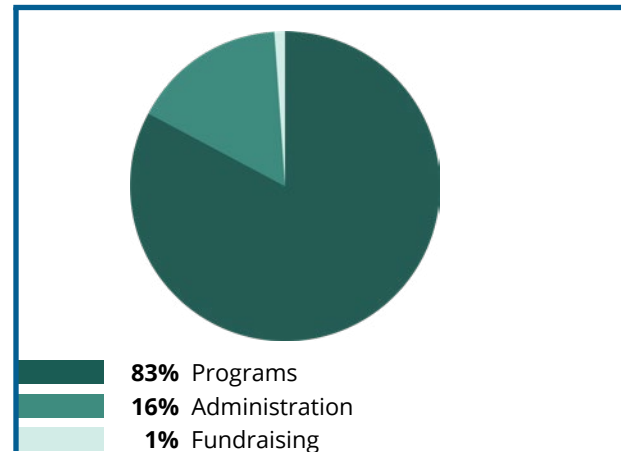
FUNDING

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Management Grant	\$100,000
Howard County Government Community Service Partnership Grant	\$80,000
Baltimore County Government Arts and Sciences Operating Grant	\$70,000
Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS) WARPIG Grant	\$65,000
Memberships, Donations and Fundraising	\$56,820
Howard County Office of Community Sustainability PREP Grant	\$48,000
Chesapeake Bay Trust Howard County Outreach and Restoration Grant (CY24)	\$45,000
Maryland Historical Trust Grant	\$38,461
Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Grant through Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake's Trees for Sacred Places Grant	\$27,611
MHAA Block Grant (distributed as competitive mini-grants)	\$25,000
MHAA Marketing Grant	\$12,000
Kahlert Foundation Grant	\$10,000
Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Mini Grant (Pickall)	\$4,984
Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Mini Grant (Catonsville Short Line)	\$4,950
Chesapeake Bay Trust Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant (CY24)	\$4,500
National Trust for Historic Preservation Jordan Fund Grant	\$4,109
Chesapeake Bay Trust Mini Corps Grant	\$1,250
Chesapeake Bay Trust Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Host Organization	

FY24 REVENUE*



FY24 EXPENDITURE*



* Unaudited

PARTNERSHIPS

PHG provided \$43,437.50 to partners in the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area through our mini-grant, EC250 Legacy Fund, and sponsorship programs.

MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Patapsco Heritage Greenway's (PHG) Mini-Grant Program is designed to assist heritage-related sites, organizations and municipalities to develop new and innovative programs, partnerships, exhibits, tours, events, and other initiatives consistent with the regional goals and objectives stated within our state and county approved management plan. The program encourages proposals that include collaborative partnerships, enhance preservation, encourage stewardship of natural resources, and promote heritage tourism.

This year, PHG received \$38,700 in grant requests for the Program, which is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. This year's awardees were chosen through a competitive process and PHG was able to award \$26,500 in funding.

FY 2024 Patapsco Valley Heritage Area Mini-Grant Awardees:

Baltimore County Arts Guild <i>Natural Hair as Art Expo</i>	\$3,829
Catonsville Rails to Trails <i>Kensington Track Restoration Project</i>	\$3,000
Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park <i>Punisher at Patapsco-Trail Run Series</i>	\$4,450
Friends of Whipp's Cemetery and Memorial Gardens <i>History of Heritage Cemetery Plants and Native Plant Alternatives Interpretive Signage</i>	\$3,428
Grace Improvement Organization of Grace AME Church <i>Honoring Our Heritage: A Black History Celebration</i>	\$2,400
Greater Patapsco Community Association-Small Watershed Community Committee <i>Supporting Habitat and Stream Health of Patapsco River Tributaries</i>	\$1,893
Howard County Conservancy <i>Highlighting Natural Resources at Mt. Pleasant Farmstead</i>	\$1,500
MORE: Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts <i>Adaptive Mountain Biking-Workspace/Storage</i>	\$1,500
Music City Maryland Association <i>2024 Music City Maryland Festival</i>	\$2,500
Rotary Club of Catonsville <i>Catonsville Community Park Walking Path Connector</i>	\$2,000

All PVHA mini-grants require a 1:1 match, with any mix of cash or in-kind match. We look forward to continuing our efforts to make our grants accessible to a wide range of partners doing work in the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area.

EC250 LEGACY FUND AWARDS

PHG provided the following awards totaling \$8,115 to local non-profits.

Howard County Historical Society <i>Ellicott City Floods: Tragedy and Resilience</i>	\$5,000
Howard County Historical Society <i>Traveling Suitcases of History</i>	\$1,615
Historic Ellicott City, Inc. <i>Historic Ellicott City Walking Tour Brochure</i>	\$1,000
Howard County Historical Society <i>Memories of Lower Main</i>	\$500

SPONSORSHIPS

PHG provided the following sponsorships totaling \$8,822.50 to local non-profits.

Baltimore County Arts Guild <i>Arts and Drafts Festival</i>	\$500
Catonsville Chamber of Commerce <i>Frederick Road Fridays</i>	\$500
Choose Clean Water Coalition <i>Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference</i>	\$500
Community Ecology Institute <i>Harvest Gala</i>	\$500
Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park <i>Cocktails for Trails/Patapsco Trail Fest</i>	\$1,000
Howard County Arts Council <i>Paint It! Ellicott City</i>	\$500
Howard County Historical Society <i>Historical Society Holiday House Tour</i>	\$500
Howard County Public School System <i>Howard County History Day</i>	\$72.50
Howard Ecoworks <i>Soak It Up!</i>	\$1,000
Lurman Woodland Theatre <i>Summer Concert Series</i>	\$500
Music City Maryland Association <i>Sun Scape Groove Festival</i>	\$750
Natural History Society of Maryland <i>The Mammoth Project</i>	\$500
Oella Historical Society <i>Geolocating Oella Cemetery Visible Gravestone Markers</i>	\$1,000
Visit Howard County <i>Ellicott City Historic Sites Map Revision</i>	\$1,000



HERITAGE

PHG has continued to work at the Oella Cemetery along with community members to help preserve this historic landmark. ▲

During FY24, the Heritage Program's accomplishments fall into three different categories, including event planning and facilitation, program building, and professional development.

Regarding event planning and facilitation, we have planned and hosted various in-person events, including multiple Patapsco Days lectures, the Third Annual Wagandt Memorial Lecture, and the Nike Missile Site BA-79 Open House, which drew over 200 attendees. We have also helped to host various cemetery cleanups at the Oella Cemetery with the environmental program manager and community programs coordinator.

The Heritage Program has made strides in both developing new initiatives and maintaining or expanding existing ones. For example, the cemetery preservation program that was established at the end of FY21/early FY22 (though still a work in progress) has been able to work closely with community members to make notable progress with efforts at the Historic Oella Cemetery, Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery, and Whipps Garden Cemetery. We have also worked closely with the ad hoc Oella cemetery committee to create successful applications for funding from PHG and MHAA.

PHG's Heritage Program Coordinator, Kyla Cools, pursued several professional development opportunities, including presenting at the American Alliance of Museums annual meeting and attending workshops hosted by organizations such as the

Maryland Historical Trust, Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Center for Restorative History, Preservation Maryland, and more. These experiences enabled PHG to share its Heritage Program projects with a broader audience, learn from other organizations in Maryland and the nation, and reflect on best practices for interpreting and educating about the history and culture of the Patapsco Valley. A goal for FY25 is to continue participating in professional development and potentially present at another conference.



PHG and other local organizations planned an Open House event at the Nike Missile Site BA-79, offering participants tours of the grounds and insights into its historic significance. ►



ENVIRONMENT

PHG hosted several environmental events in the Patapsco Watershed, including this Tree Planting at Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery and Arboretum. ▲

As part of our mission to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area, volunteer events are held throughout the year to help clean up trash, remove invasive species, and plant trees. We greatly appreciate the effort of our volunteers to make an impact in the health of the Patapsco River Valley and help us achieve our goals.

In FY25, we look forward to continuing to grow and expand our partnerships with both local organizations and the community. We invite you to read more about PHG's Environmental Program in our [Environmental Portfolio](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

33,075
pounds of trash removed

588,099
sq. ft. of invasive plants removed

319
trees planted

410
trees maintained

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1,175
volunteers

3,066
volunteer hours

3,614
engaged education participants

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!
patapsco.org/connect-with-us/volunteer

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In June 2024, we released our second **Non-Tidal Patapsco River Report Card**, issuing a C+ grade for the non-tidal portion of the river based on five parameters measured from May 2022 to April 2023. The parameters included in the grade are biology, conductivity, clarity, E. coli bacteria counts and phosphorus. This is a slight improvement over the first years' report card grade. We adhere to Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative's (CMC) protocols and quality assurance procedures, which allows our data to be compared across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and stored in the CMC's Data Explorer database. The data are accessible for public and agency use.

During the first half of FY24, we continued our bimonthly water quality sampling at eleven sites in the watershed. At the beginning of 2024, we reduced our data collection schedule to monthly and began evaluating additional possible sites to include for FY25. Parameters monitored have remained the same since the inception of the program and include temperature, pH, conductivity, nitrite, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, water clarity and E. coli bacteria counts. Additionally in the second half of FY24, we ran a rigorous side-by-side comparison of bacterial monitoring procedures with an intern from the University of Maryland School of Public Health. The results of that project have not only helped us forge our path ahead, but have also benefited the wider volunteer monitoring community across the region.

PHG Water Quality Program Intern, Apoorva Ajith, spent the spring learning about water quality monitoring and studying bacteria in the Patapsco River. ▶



BIOLOGICAL MONITORING

Using stream invertebrates for biological assessment, we completed two more full seasons of biological monitoring in FY24 using Izaak Walton League/Save Our Streams protocols. We trained twelve new community scientists to be certified in the procedures as well as providing scores of other educational monitoring opportunities. We collected data at all eleven sites, finally including Deep Run as a stream monitoring location using a slightly different protocol than the rest of our rocky-bottom streams. We piloted a winter monitoring protocol at three sites and plan to expand this further in the future. An additional site will be added to the roster for FY25.

We provided over 150 hands-on, in-depth volunteer opportunities to learn about water quality, monitoring and potential threats to water quality. We engaged hundreds more in less formal opportunities to learn about water quality, land use and residential yard management through educational experiences at schools, streamside community events, and workshops.

◀ Throughout the year, PHG engaged community members in hands-on learning to assess macroinvertebrate populations and gain insights into water quality.



Left: Students at Church Lane Elementary and Technology School planted trees on the school grounds. **Right:** Young African Leadership Institute Fellows visited Patapsco Valley State Park for an educational, environmental and recreation event organized by PHG. ▲

COMMUNITY & GROUP PROGRAMS

PHG continued to expand our community and group programs during FY24 including collaborating with new and existing partners, local community and neighborhood groups, corporate organizations, and schools on a variety of events. These included bilingual family and community days and cross-cultural programming at Patapsco Valley State Park, educational workshops in partnership with afterschool programs, scouting groups and summer camps, tree planting and maintenance initiatives involving elementary and middle school students as well as local businesses, and much more. Through our programs, PHG actively strives to cultivate a sense of place and belonging in the Patapsco Valley watershed while advocating for stewardship of our natural, cultural and historical resources.

We expanded our impact across the Patapsco watershed in both Baltimore and Howard Counties, including continuing our work in the communities of Milford Mill, Randallstown, Lansdowne, and Elkridge. Our efforts are aimed at fostering safer, healthier, and cleaner environments for all residents. This has been possible through impactful collaborations with our dedicated partners across the watershed. One major event was a tree planting at Church Lane Elementary and Technology School in Baltimore County. We are grateful to the support and partnership of dedicated school staff, community members and families,

BCPS facilities and maintenance teams, Union Bethel AME Church, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS) and Urban Zink. Two years of planning and coordination culminated with a spring planting day with over 100 third grade students and their families. On a day that included a little rain, together we planted 65 native trees on school grounds, positively impacting the community by providing green space and highlighting benefits that trees bring to the school and local community. We will host educational workshops and maintenance events over the next two years and are eager to continue relationships with these students along with our partnership with another BCPS school, Edmondson Heights Elementary, where we planted trees the previous year. Both of these tree planting projects are a key part of our community-based programs and emphasis on connecting with youth.

In addition to amplifying our community engagement, our group programs expanded during FY24 with our new donation-based program that blends environmental stewardship with team building and community/social engagement. This initiative allows organizations to engage in meaningful volunteer activities followed by a social gathering at Manor Hill Tavern. The program empowers businesses and organizations to actively contribute



to preserving the Patapsco watershed while strengthening relationships among team members, the local community, and the environment. The program looks to foster a sense of community through environmental stewardship, provide an introduction to heritage and nature tourism within the PVHA, contribute to enhancing the Patapsco River's health and its tributaries, and support local small businesses. During FY24, we worked with partners at Under Armour, T. Rowe Price, Energetics, University of Maryland Howard County Alumni Association, Serenity Ridge Natural Burial Cemetery, and Conveyor Handling Company, as well as many others listed on the partners page in this report, on a range of stewardship programs. Our community programs coordinator also served as Secretary of the Baltimore County Green Alliance during FY24, helping to expand our partnerships with environmental organizations across Baltimore County.

Another emphasis area in FY24 involved increasing our bilingual and cross-cultural events, which included Es Mi Parque and Hispanic Heritage Month events in Patapsco Valley State Park, a Latino Conservation Week event at Masonville Cove, mentoring a Defensores de la Cuenca La Academia participant on a project for the Baltimore County Public Library, hosting Young African Leadership Institute Fellows for an environmental education, stewardship and recreation event in Patapsco Valley State Park, planning and hosting Festival del Río Patapsco, participating in the STEM Like a Girl event at Soldiers Delight, and hosting the Lakeland STEAM Center for water quality events in Patapsco Valley State Park.

Left: PHG mentored and assisted a Defensores de la Cuenca La Academia participant on a Native Plant and Garden event. **Right:** As an appreciation to all volunteers, PHG debuted new steward shirts highlighting the focus areas of the organization.

We also focused on developing our new watershed video, *A Watershed in Time: Exploring the Patapsco's Past, Present, and Future*, with support from the Kahlert Foundation. The video will explore Maryland's Patapsco Valley to tell the environmental story of how watersheds work, tracing an arc from indigenous people's relationship with the earth to industrial revolution transformations to current restoration activities. We will have a short video premiering this fall and look forward to expanding the project into a longer video that can be used by participants in all of our programs and beyond.

Finally, we hosted our first ever volunteer appreciation event at Ellicott City's Park Ridge Creamery next to our offices, emphasizing the vital role that our volunteers play in helping to steward the environmental, historical and cultural resources of the Patapsco Valley and sharing our a new PHG Steward shirt designed by our marketing coordinator Gaelyn Mitchell. We are continually reminded that the key to our success is our broad network of volunteers who make our programs and work possible.

Learn more at patapsco.org/stewardship/environmental-programs



ARTS & CULTURE

“Fall Colors along the North Fork of Patapsco River” taken by ▲
William Beck – Winner of People’s Choice, PaSNAPsco 2023

Patapsco Heritage Greenway is passionate about the important role arts and cultural activities play in enhancing the heritage area experience. Whether it is live musical performances, art competitions, or local festivals, PHG is committed to enhancing the Valley’s appeal to a diverse audience through art and cultural experiences. We are always excited to find new ways to support, promote, and develop new opportunities and partnerships with local artists and the heritage area’s cultural arts scene.

PASNAPSCO

Patapsco Heritage Greenway’s sixth annual PaSNAPsco photo contest invited amateur, professional, and student photographers to capture the region’s history, landmarks, and natural beauty. In 2023, forty-one photos from seventeen photographers were submitted. A panel of judges selected winners in each of the six categories, including a Best of Patapsco, while a People’s Choice award was decided through social media voting. Winning and honorable mention photos were featured in PHG’s 2024 calendar to promote local photographers and showcase the unique character of the Patapsco Valley. Additionally, winning photos from 2020, 2021, and 2022 were displayed in a PaSNAPsco photography exhibit at the Baltimore County Arts Guild’s Catonsville Clubhouse.

“Patapsco Contributor” by Michael Kotarba – Winner of Best Depiction of the Patapsco, Paint It! Ellicott City ▶

PAINT IT! ELLICOTT CITY

Howard County Art Council’s annual Paint it! Ellicott City brings artists and spectators to the Ellicott City historic district and the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area. For the past eight years, Patapsco Heritage Greenway has sponsored a prize for Best Depiction of the Patapsco. This year Michael Kotarba took the prize for *Patapsco Contributor*. This watercolor painting resonated with our judges for its level of detail depicting the moving water, rocks, trees, and stream banks. It manages to offer both a sense of mystery and familiarity that compels us to appreciate the river and its tributaries.



Learn more at patapsco.org/plan-your-visit/arts-culture



RECREATION

PHG partnered with Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park ▲ to help organize Family Fun Runs at both Trail Fest and the Johnnycake Jolt Series.

The PHG Recreation Committee serves as a facilitator and advocate, connecting individuals to existing groups that appreciate and utilize the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area (PVHA) for recreational activities while promoting outdoor recreational opportunities across the Patapsco Valley. Our primary goal is to bolster and advance recreational events and opportunities in collaboration with our PVHA partners. Anyone interested in or actively engaging in recreational activities within the Patapsco watershed is welcome to join our committee. While our meetings focus on planning events and supporting recreational projects, we also try to have a bit of outdoor fun, including a board member led yoga session and barbecue at Pickall. In FY24, the Recreation Committee hosted our second Family Fun Run for children and families, featured as part of the Johnnycake Jolt series organized by our partners at Friends of Patapsco Valley

State Park. We plan to continue this event while developing others in the years ahead, contributing to the vibrant and accessible recreational landscape of the PVHA that also includes our support of Friends' adaptive programs. The committee also organized PHG's participation in Catonsville's Frederick Road Fridays and contributed to a feature article on Patapsco River paddling in Bay Journal. Committee members also participated in Baltimore Metropolitan Council's community engagement efforts focused on developing regional trail networks, including plans for the proposed Stoney Run Trail.

For comprehensive information regarding existing outdoor recreational opportunities within the PVHA, we encourage you to explore the outdoor activities section of our website which we will continue to update with additional content in FY25.

Learn more at patapsco.org/plan-your-visit/outdoor-activities/

MEET OUR NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

We are pleased to welcome Hannah Emmons as our new community programs coordinator, replacing Rachel Pierson who departed PHG for a career in early childhood education. Hannah was with PHG as our Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps intern during FY24 and proved exceptionally adept at stepping into a variety of roles in support of all our programming. For Hannah's capstone project, she organized and led our Festival del Río Patapsco event focusing on Spanish language environmental education and outdoor recreation programming in Patapsco Valley State Park. Hannah plans to continue and expand these efforts as part of her community programs portfolio. Hannah is a native Marylander, growing up in Towson and spending time volunteering around the Baltimore area. She earned a B.A. in Spanish Studies and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. In her new role, Hannah will work to combine her degrees to incorporate Spanish-speaking communities along with other community partners into environmental engagement across the Patapsco Valley. Welcome Hannah!

◀ **Hannah Emmons**
Community Programs Coordinator



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to all of our members, donors and volunteers for your support during the past year. We are grateful to all of you who contributed your time to help us improve the Patapsco Valley Heritage Area as a place to live, work and play. **Thank you for helping to steward the environmental, historical, recreational and cultural resources of the Patapsco Valley for all.**

